Operation of Bounded Warehouses

1661. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed the private parties to operate bonded warehouses;

(b) Whether the Central Warehousing Corporation has been operating bonded warehouses all over the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons for allowing the private parties to operate bonded warehouses particularly in view of likelihood of non-payment of dues by them to the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) As on 31.12.91, Central Warehousinng Corporation were operating 174 customs bonded warehouses in 15 States and 4 in Union Territories.

(c) Licenses for establishment of private bonded warehouses are granted in cases where.

(i) The Central Warehousing Corporation or State Warehousing Corporation are unable to provide the required godown facilities;

(ii) in such of those cases where the imported goods need specialised storage conditions;

(iii) are in the nature of hazardous/ explosive goods,

(iv) goods which require round the clock service; or goods used in export oriented industries.

Non-payment of Government dues is unlikely as the licences are granted under the provisions of the Customs Act which adequately protect the interests of revenue. Moreover, goods once entered for warehousing are required to be cleared within the specified statutory period or extended period, failing which the bonds executed at the time of warehousing of the goods become enforceable under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 enabling recovery of Government dues.

[*Translation*]

Smuggling of Mongoose Furs

1662. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case of smuggling of the restricted monogoose furs have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years and the current year so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

World Bank Assistance for Forestry and Fisheries Projects

1663. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide assistance for forestry and fisher-